



SPACE ADVENTURES

SPACE



10¢

ADVENTURES

SEPTEMBER

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

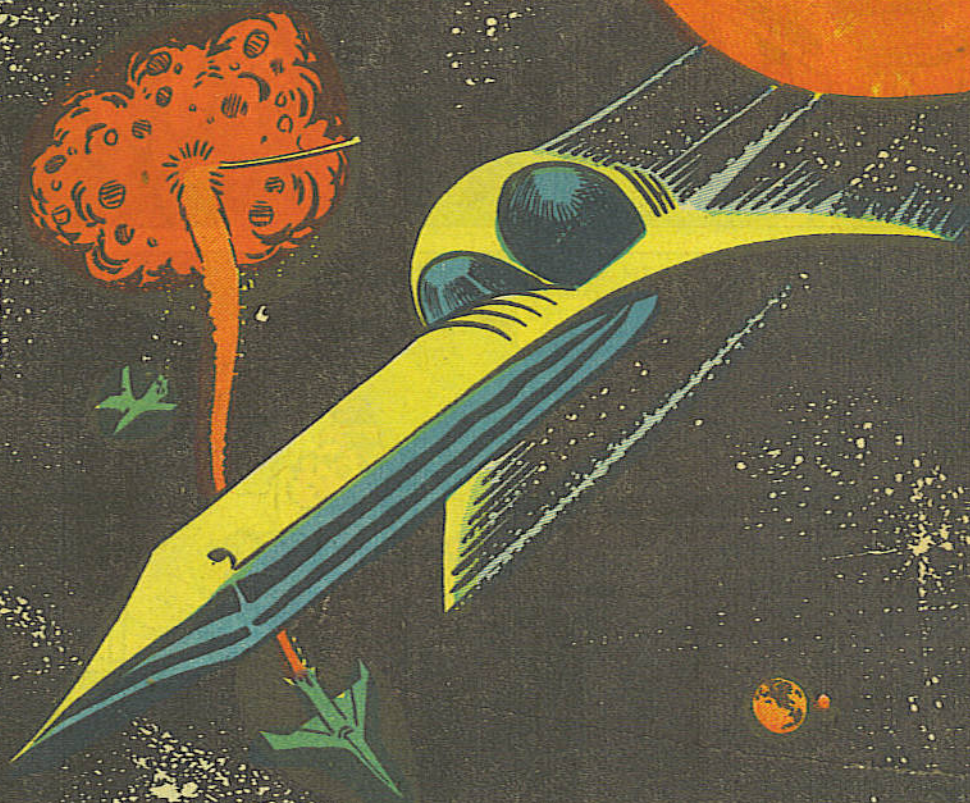




WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

"The First Satellite"

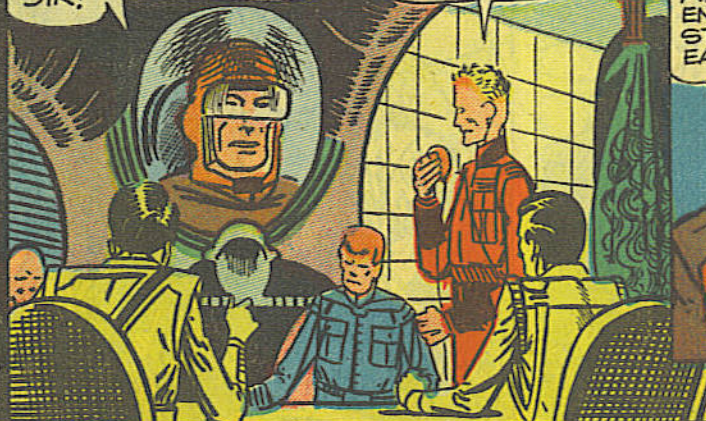
THE DREADED SPACESHIPS OF EARTHLINGS WERE INVADING VENUS! BUT THE VENUS GUARD SHIPS DEALT THE EARTHLINGS THE BLOW THEY DESERVED!



REPORTING THAT THE SIXTH EARTHLING SHIP HAS BEEN DESTROYED, SIR!

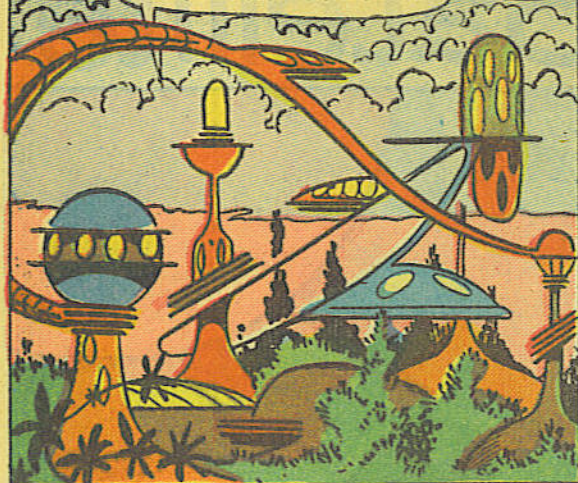
GOOD WORK! KEEP UP YOUR VIGILANCE!

AS LONG AS OUR RADIUM ENERGY HOLDS OUT WE CAN STAVE OFF THOSE HATED EARTHLINGS!

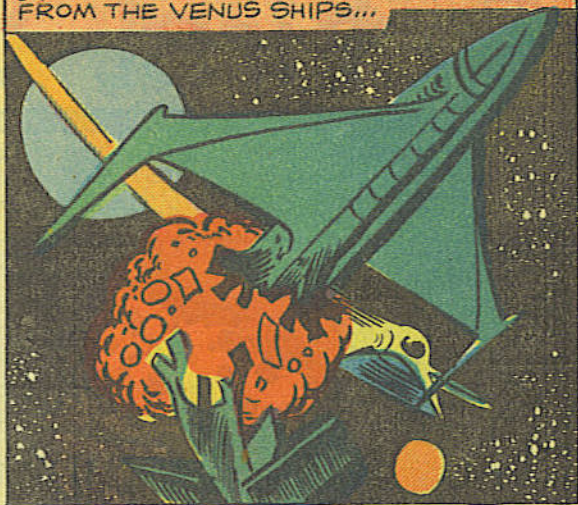


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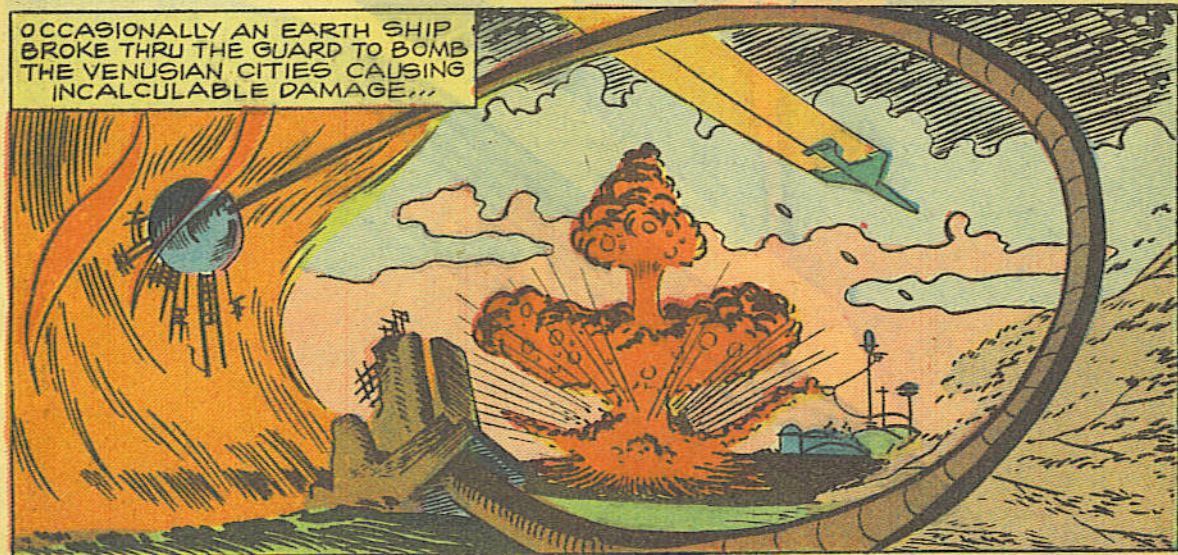
BUT WE CAN'T CONTINUE OUR SAFEGUARD FOR LONG WITH THE EVENTUAL DEPLETION OF RADIUM ENERGY!



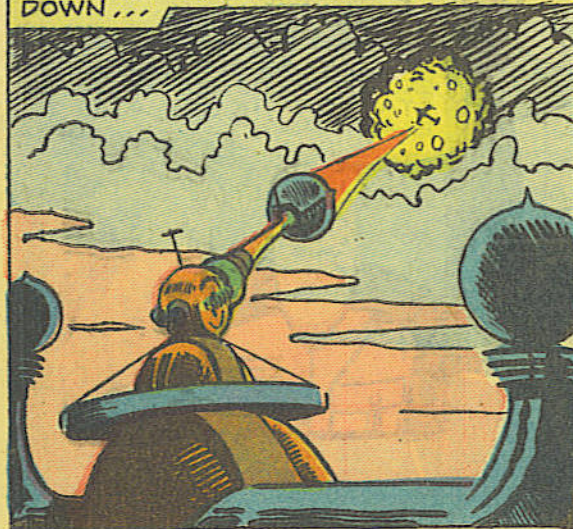
EARTH SHIP AFTER SHIP WAS SMASHED BY THE GREAT RADIUM ENERGY FORCES FROM THE VENUS SHIPS...



OCCASIONALLY AN EARTH SHIP BROKE THRU THE GUARD TO BOMB THE VENUSIAN CITIES CAUSING INCALCULABLE DAMAGE...



EACH SHIP WAS ALWAYS BROUGHT DOWN...



SURVIVING EARTHLINGS WOULD BE QUESTIONED...

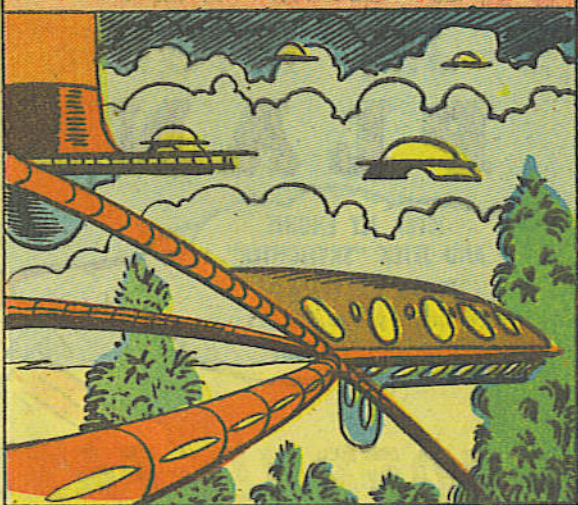


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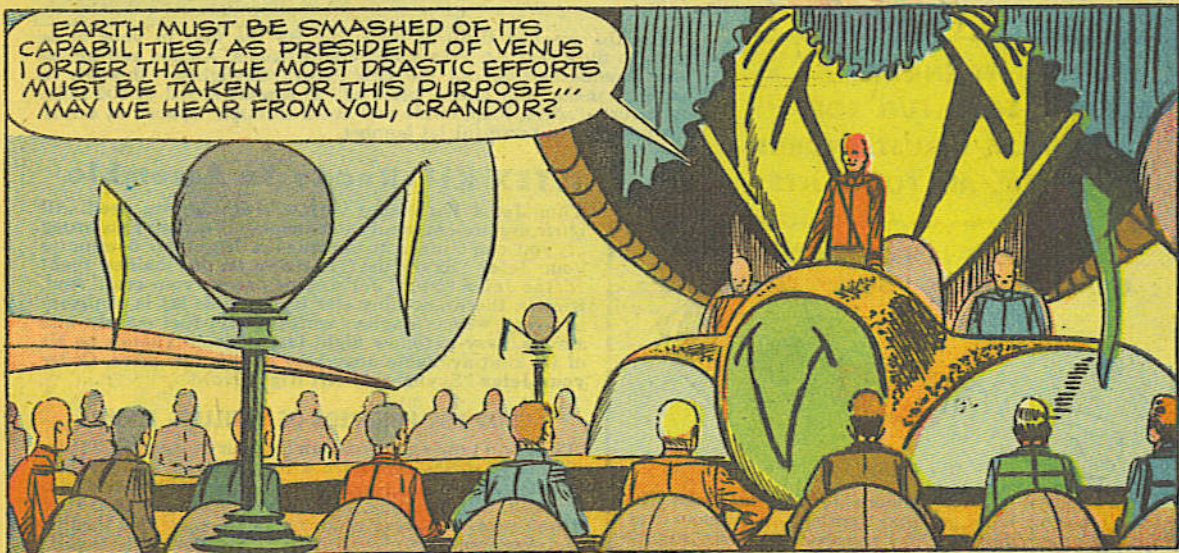
EARTH SHALL RULE THE UNIVERSE...WE SHALL SEND SHIP AFTER SHIP UNTIL WE CONQUER VENUS!



ALL THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS OF VENUS WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER...



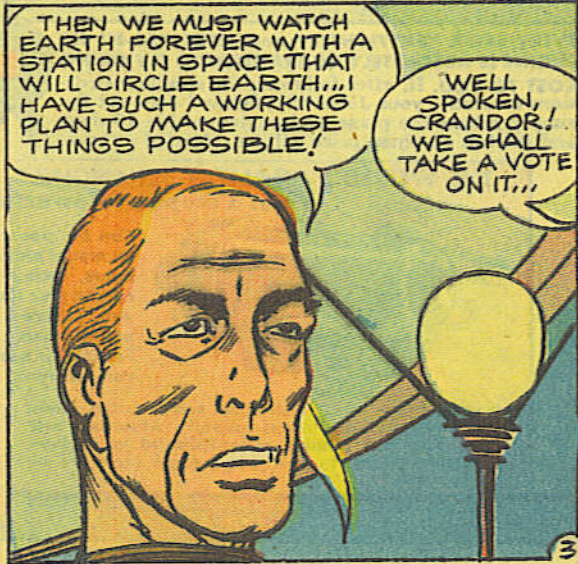
EARTH MUST BE SMASHED OF ITS CAPABILITIES! AS PRESIDENT OF VENUS I ORDER THAT THE MOST DRASTIC EFFORTS MUST BE TAKEN FOR THIS PURPOSE... MAY WE HEAR FROM YOU, CRANDOR?



WE MUST DEVELOP MY PROCESS OF SOLAR ENERGY. WITH IT WE CAN CRUSH EARTH WITH HEAT!



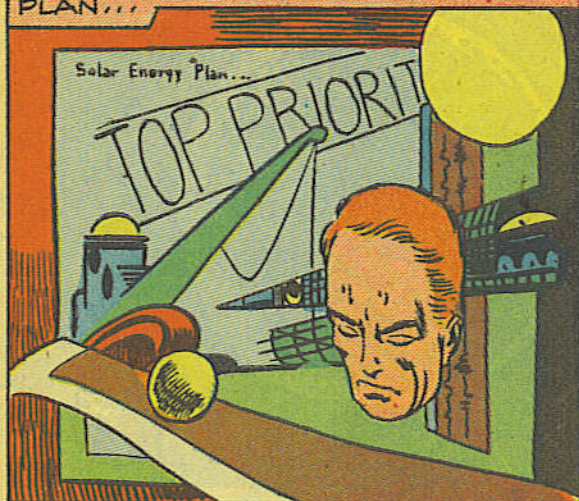
THEN WE MUST WATCH EARTH FOREVER WITH A STATION IN SPACE THAT WILL CIRCLE EARTH...I HAVE SUCH A WORKING PLAN TO MAKE THESE THINGS POSSIBLE!



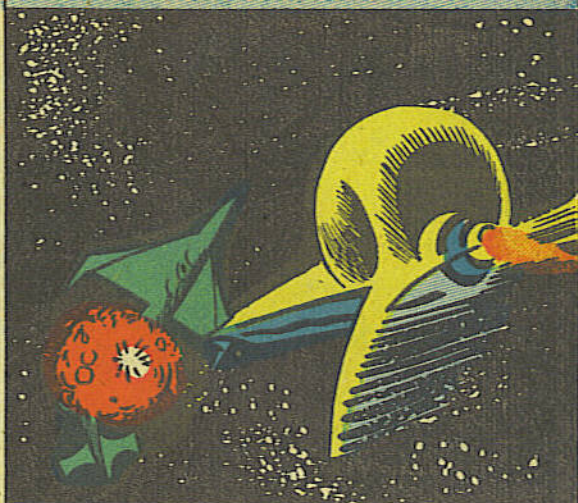
WELL SPOKEN, CRANDOR! WE SHALL TAKE A VOTE ON IT...

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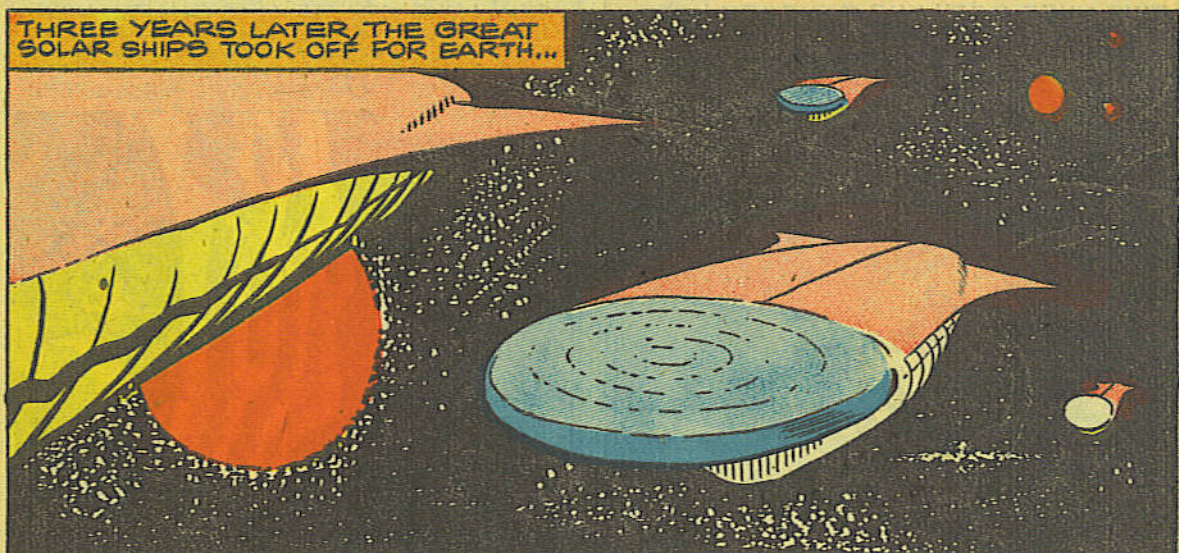
ALL THE RESOURCES OF VENUS WERE PUT TO WORK ON CRANDOR'S SOLAR ENERGY PLAN...



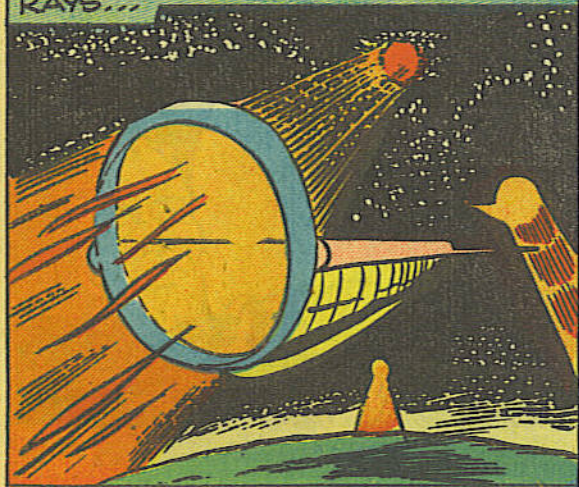
MEANWHILE THE VENUS SHIPS WATCHED AND FOUGHT THE INVADING EARTHLINGS...



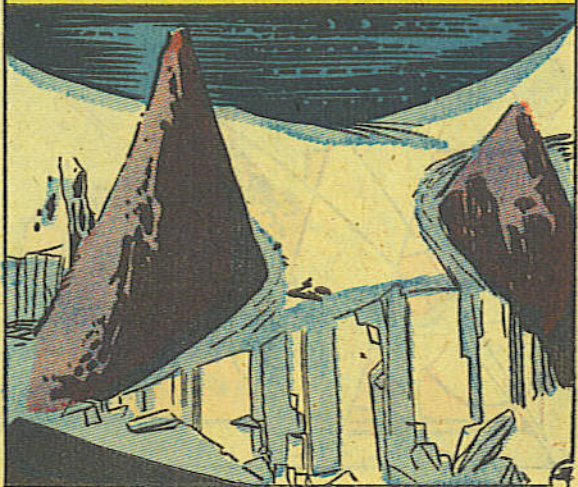
THREE YEARS LATER, THE GREAT SOLAR SHIPS TOOK OFF FOR EARTH...



THE CITIES OF EARTH WERE BURNED OFF THE FACE OF THE GLOBE BY THE TERRIBLE HEAT OF THE SOLAR HEAT RAYS...

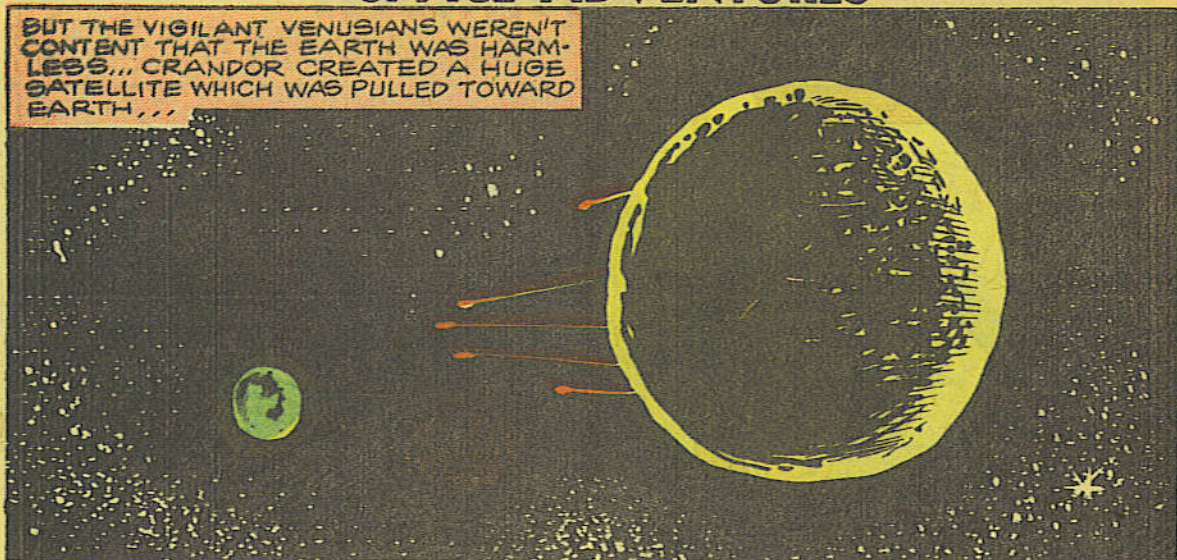


THE VAST ENERGY OF THE HEAT RAYS AFFECTED THE CLIMATE OF EARTH CAUSING ICE AGES TO FORM...

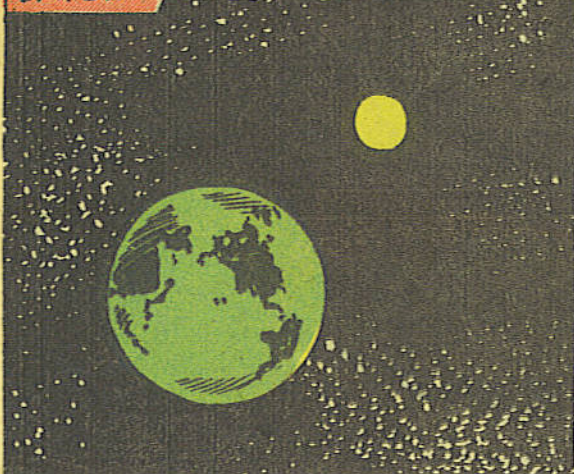


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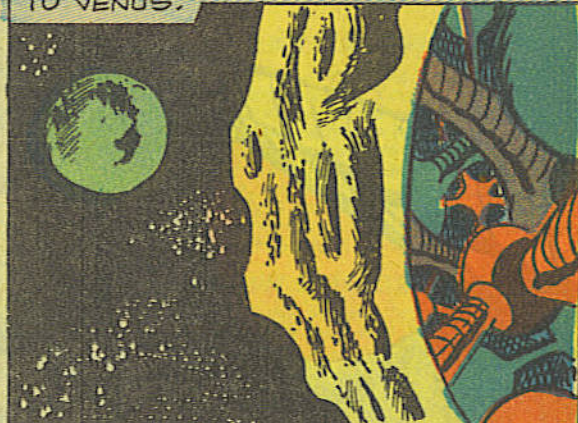
BUT THE VIGILANT VENUSIANS WEREN'T CONTENT THAT THE EARTH WAS HARMLESS... CRANDOR CREATED A HUGE SATELLITE WHICH WAS PULLED TOWARD EARTH...



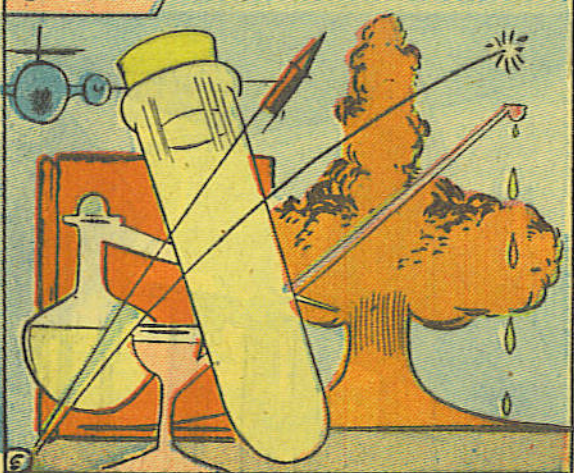
THIS HUGE BODY WAS SENT INTO MOTION TO CIRCLE THE EARTH ONCE EVERY 28 DAYS...



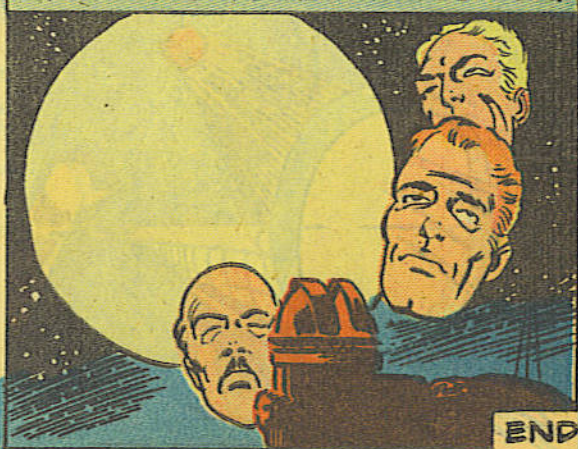
WITHIN THE CRATER-LIKE SHAPES WERE FIXED TELESCOPES WHICH WERE AUTOMATIC TELEVISION CAMERAS THAT WOULD FOREVER WITNESS EVENTS ON EARTH AND TRANSMIT THE KNOWLEDGE TO VENUS.



AS EONS PASSED THE EARTHLINGS AGAIN GREW IN NUMBER AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SKILLS SLOWLY BUT SURELY GREW...



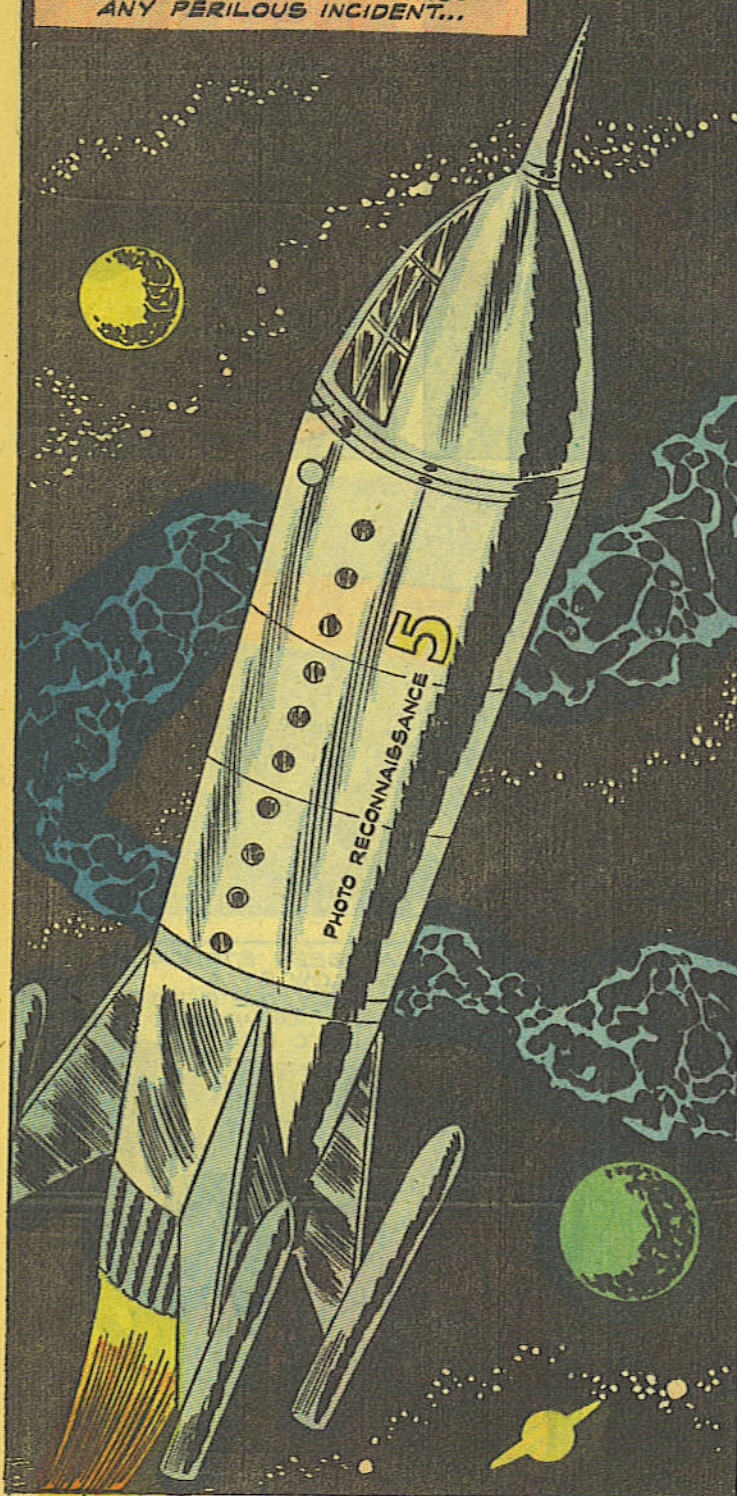
SCIENTISTS GAZED LONGINGLY AT THE MOON, NEVER REALIZING IT WAS AN ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE OF VIGILANCE AND DREAMED OF SETTING FORTH TO THE PLANETS TO EXPLORE... AND PLUNDER!



END

RESCUE IN OUTER SPACE

A ROUTINE TRIP OF SPACE PHOTOGRAPHY SHIP NUMBER 5 WAS USUALLY A QUIET ONE WITHOUT ANY PERILOUS INCIDENT...



FRANK AND AL OFF-DUTY?

YES, IT'S JUST ABOUT THEIR BED-TIME!

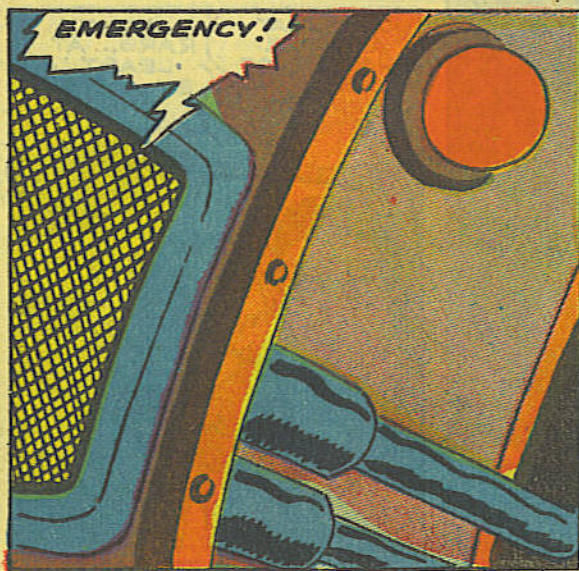
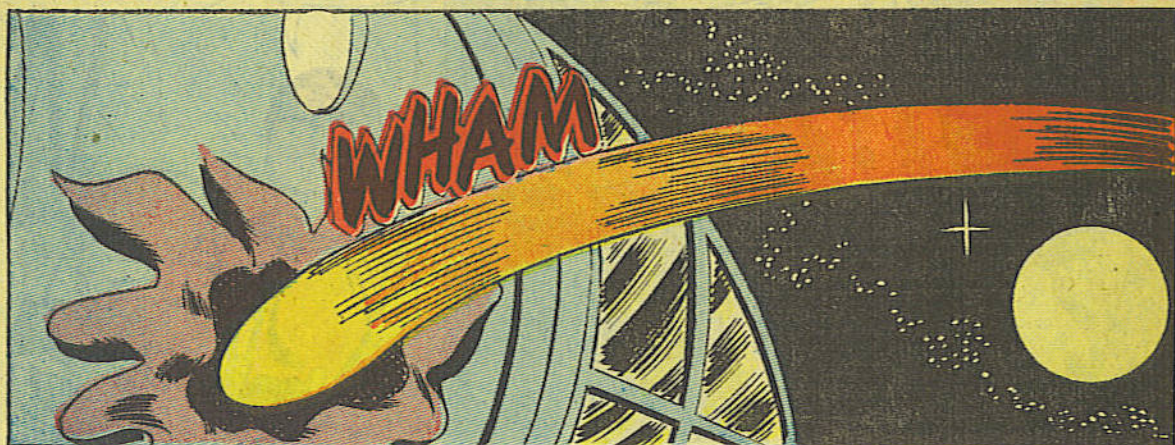
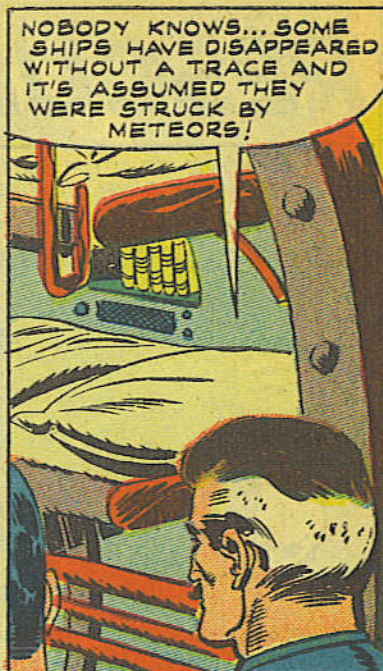


JUST WHAT ARE OUR CHANCES OF BEING CLIPPED BY A METEORITE?

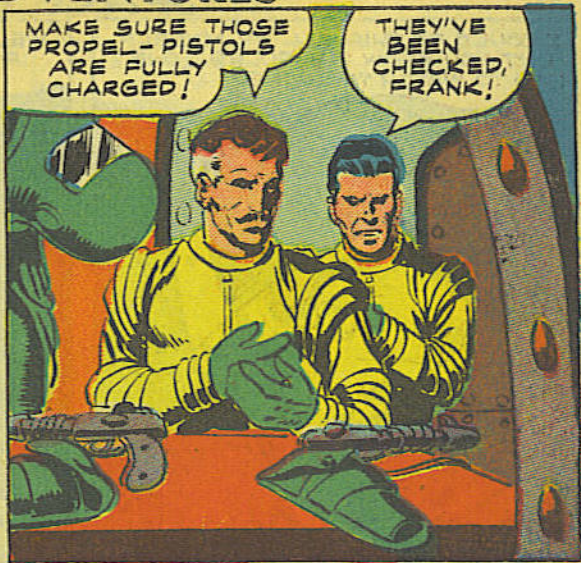
MIGHTY RARE... AT LEAST BY A BIG ONE!



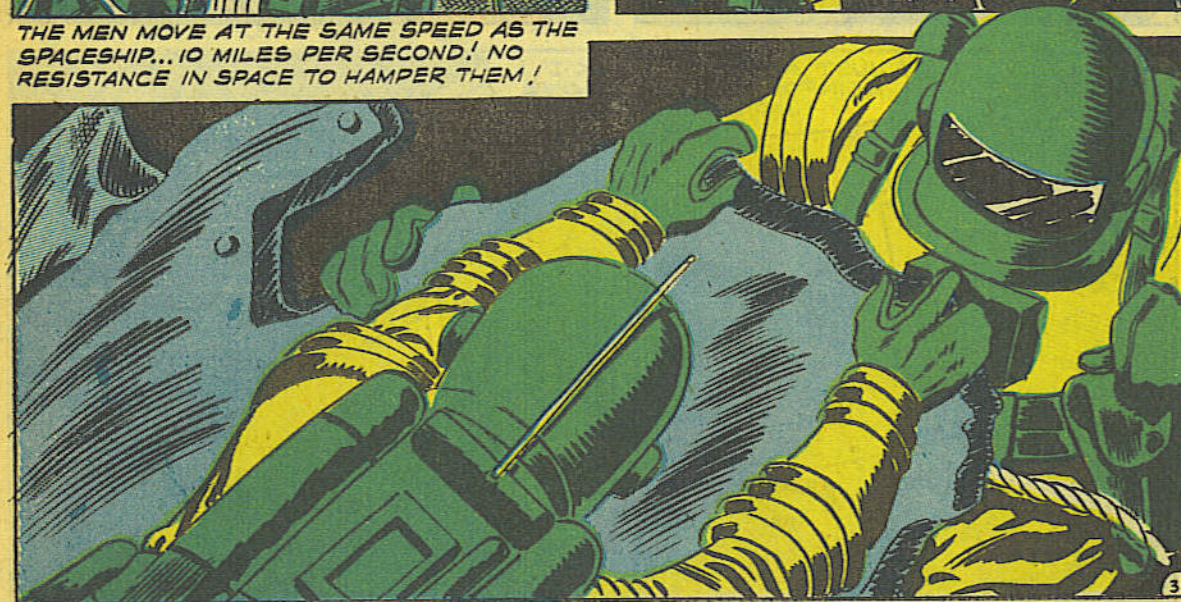
SPACE ADVENTURE.



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THE MEN MOVE AT THE SAME SPEED AS THE SPACESHIP... 10 MILES PER SECOND! NO RESISTANCE IN SPACE TO HAMPER THEM!

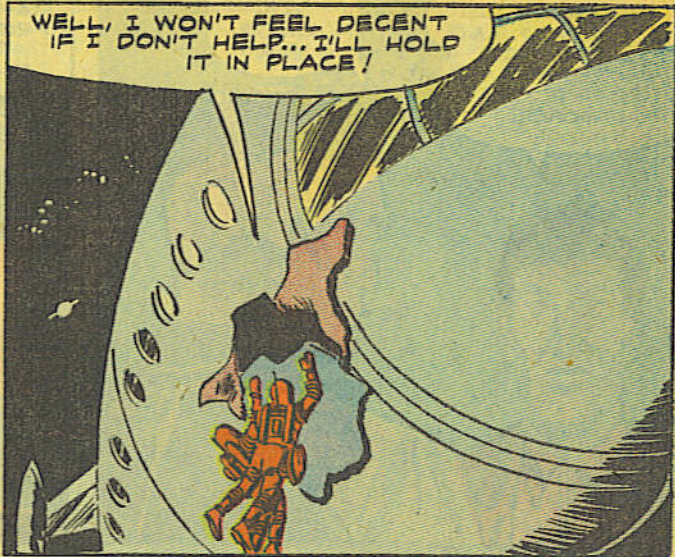


SPACE ADVENTURES

I COULD DO THIS ALL BY MYSELF
BUT YOU KNOW THE RULES... ONE
HAS TO WATCH THE OTHER!



WELL, I WON'T FEEL DECENT
IF I DON'T HELP... I'LL HOLD
IT IN PLACE!

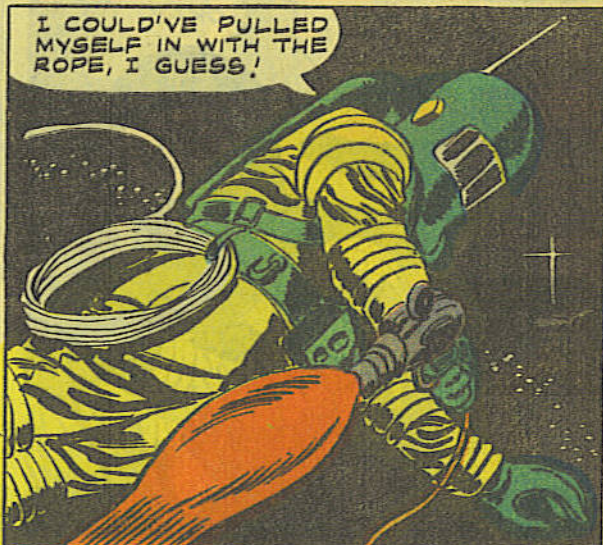


WHOOOPS! I
PUSHED TOO
HARD! I'M MOVING
AWAY!

USE YOUR PROPEL-
PISTOL! BLAST
A VERY SHORT
BLAST TO THE
REAR!

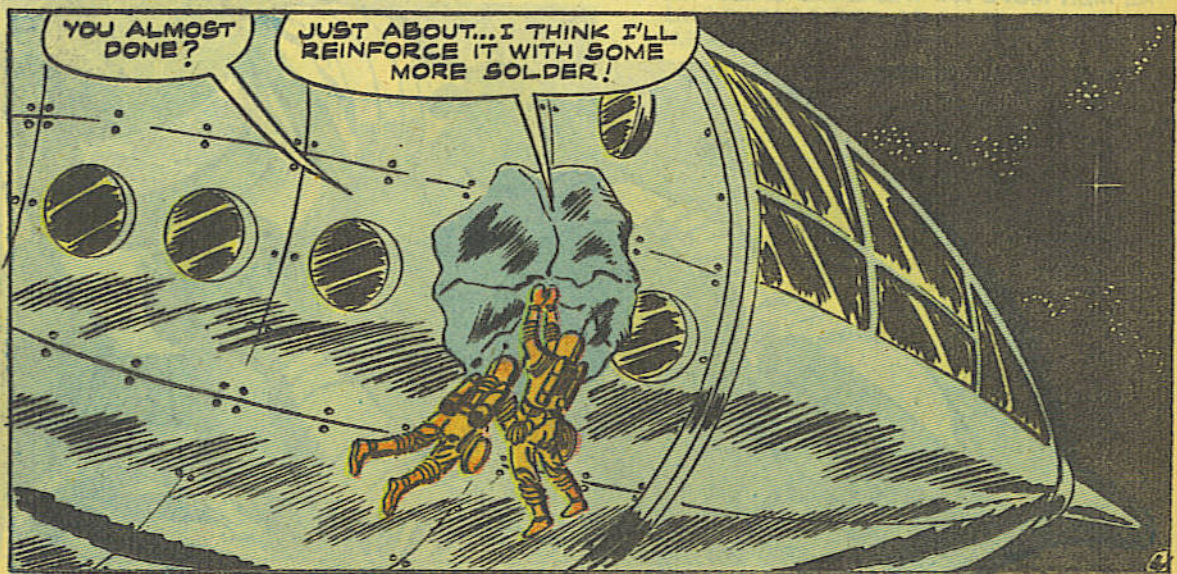


I COULD'VE PULLED
MYSELF IN WITH THE
ROPE, I GUESS!



YOU ALMOST
DONE?

JUST ABOUT... I THINK I'LL
REINFORCE IT WITH SOME
MORE SOLDER!



SPACE ADVENTURES

FRANK PULLS OUT HIS PROPEL-PISTOL
INSTEAD OF HIS WELDING UNIT BY
MISTAKE!

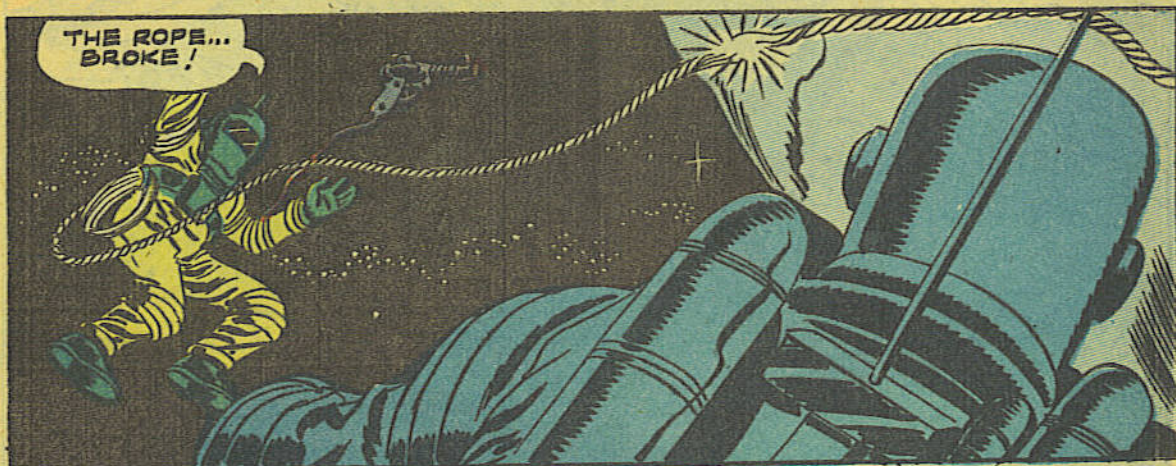
DON'T,
FRANK...



GOSH! I PULLED OUT
THE PROPEL-PISTOL
BY MISTAKE!



THE ROPE...
BROKE!



IF I DON'T GET HIM
HE'LL FLOAT OFF IN
HIS DIRECTION
FOREVER!



I'VE CAUGHT UP
WITH YOU! DON'T
WORRY!



YOU SURE
SAVED ME
FROM A
LONG TRIP
TO
NOWHERE!

WELL, I
NEED YOU
TO BEAT AT
GIN RUMMY!



DREDGE FROM THE UNKNOWN

A GIGANTIC TRENCH, AS IF SCOOPED OUT BY A HUGE STEAM SHOVEL APPEARED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE WEST, IN ONE SINGLE NIGHT...



SPACE ADVENTURES

PROF. MALCOM SALEM AND HIS ASSISTANT WERE SENT FROM WASHINGTON TO INVESTIGATE...

I TELL YOU, JUDD, THE EARTH WAS JUST SCOOPED UP LIKE A DREDGE FROM THE SKY!

YOU MEAN IT'S AS IF WE DOWN HERE, WERE LIKE THE CREATURES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA AND HAD SOME TRAWLER OVERHEAD, DROPPING A DREDGE?



EXACTLY! BUT WE MUST INVESTIGATE FURTHER... LOWER ME WITH THIS ROPE, JUDD!



THE SCIENTISTS CAREFULLY INVESTIGATE THE SIDES OF THIS NEW CHASM, OR "THE BIG CREASE" AS SOME NEWSPAPERS HAD DUBBED THE PHENOMENON...



SOME GIANT THING DID SCRAPE INTO THE GROUND!

HOW CAN YOU TELL? FROM ABRASIONS IN THE ROCKS?



YES, JUDD... SOMETHING METALLIC DID DIG INTO THE GROUND! THERE WERE REPORTS THAT NIGHT THAT SOME PEOPLE SAW A FLASH IN THIS AREA... NO DOUBT, CAUSED BY FRICTION OF THE CONTACT!



SPACE ADVENTURES

PROF. SALEM REPORTED HIS FINDINGS...

GENTLEMEN, SOME SORT OF OUTER SPACE VISITOR IS MOVING LIKE A TRAWLER ACROSS OUR UPPER ATMOSPHERE AND IS SAMPLING US MUCH AS WE DREDGE THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!



HERALD DAILY TIMES
PROFESSOR SAYS
WERE BEING SCOOPED
UP LIKE OYSTERS

PROFESSOR SALEM
SAYS OUTER SPACE
BEINGS ARE
FISHERMEN

THE SCIENTIST IS BROUGHT BEFORE
A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY!

I AM POSITIVE THAT THERE IS
SOME EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL
BEING, SCOOPING UP SAMPLES
OF OUR
PLANET!

THAT IS JUST
BALDERDASH!
YOU MUST READ
TOO MUCH
SCIENCE-
FICTION!

I THINK WE MUST PUT THE
INVESTIGATION IN THE HANDS
OF SOME MORE
LEVEL-HEADED
INVESTIGATOR!



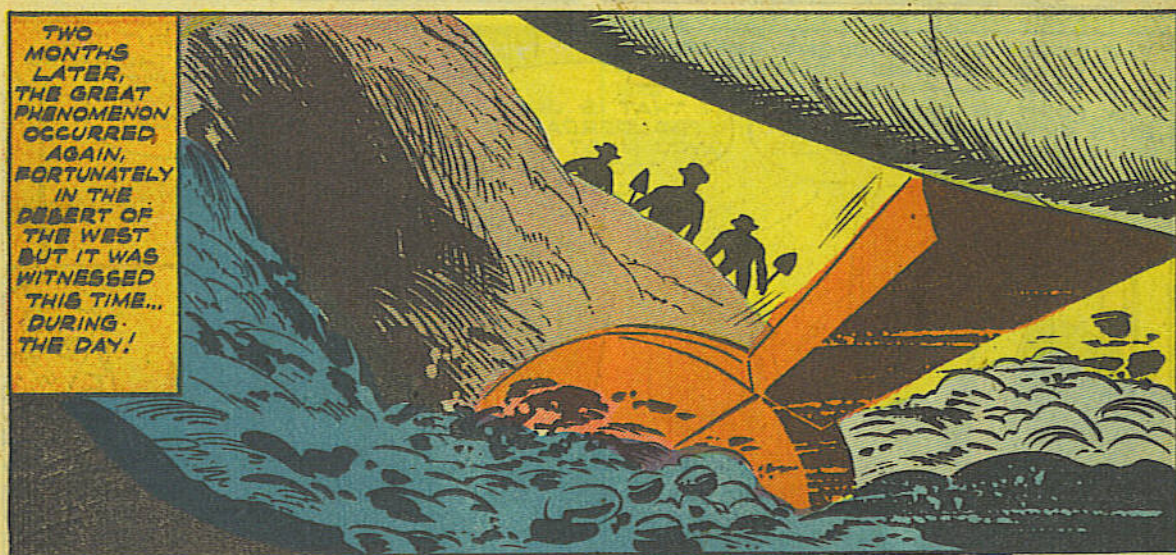
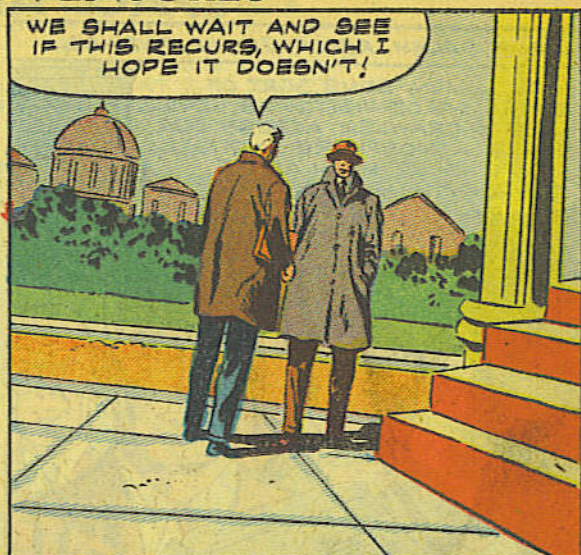
THE SCIENTIST WAS RELIEVED OF HIS
DUTIES AND URGED TO RETIRE!



BEFORE I GO, I MUST URGE YOU TO
SEND SPACE SHIPS UP TO SEARCH
FOR THIS DREDGE AND SHOOT IT
DOWN IF POSSIBLE!

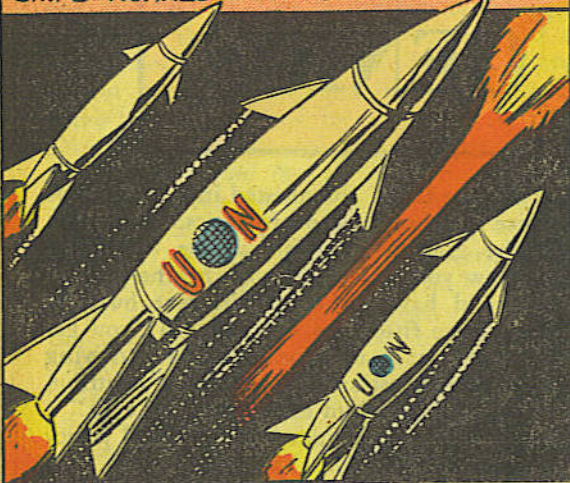


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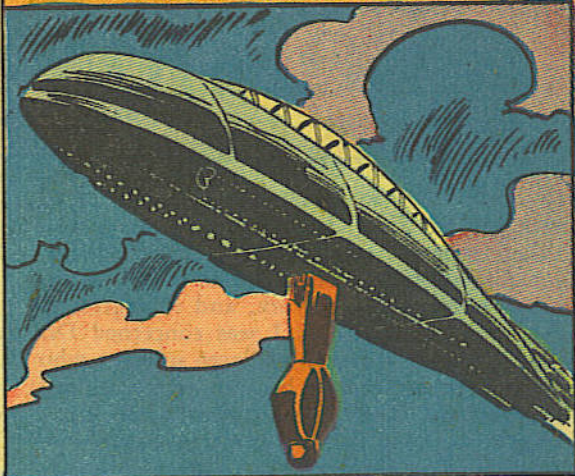


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UNDER AGREEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS, NUCLEAR-POWERED FIGHTING SHIPS ROARED UP INTO SPACE



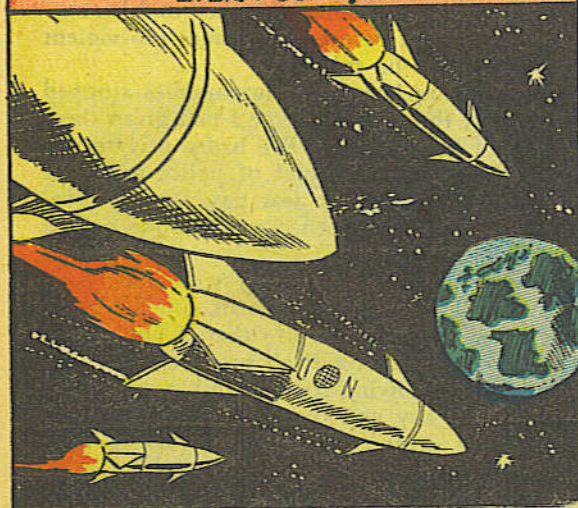
THEN THE HUGE FANASTIC CRAFT WAS SIGHTED! NO RADIO CONTACT CAME FROM THE SHIP!



THERE WAS NO TIME TO WONDER OR TO TRY TO REASON WITH THE BEINGS THAT MIGHT BE IN IT... THE CRAFT WAS EXPLODED WITH THE ATOMIC WARHEAD MISSILES!



NO VESTIGE OF THE CRAFT WAS EVER FOUND!



WE CAN ONLY HOPE AND PRAY THAT NO OTHER SHIP WILL COME TO PREDGE US UP FOR STUDY! WE MUST ESTABLISH A WORLD GUARD PATROL...

BEYOND A DOUBT WE MUST DO THAT!



THE EARTH WAS FOREVER PUT ON GUARD AND THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WERE MORE UNITED PEACEFULLY THEREAFTER!

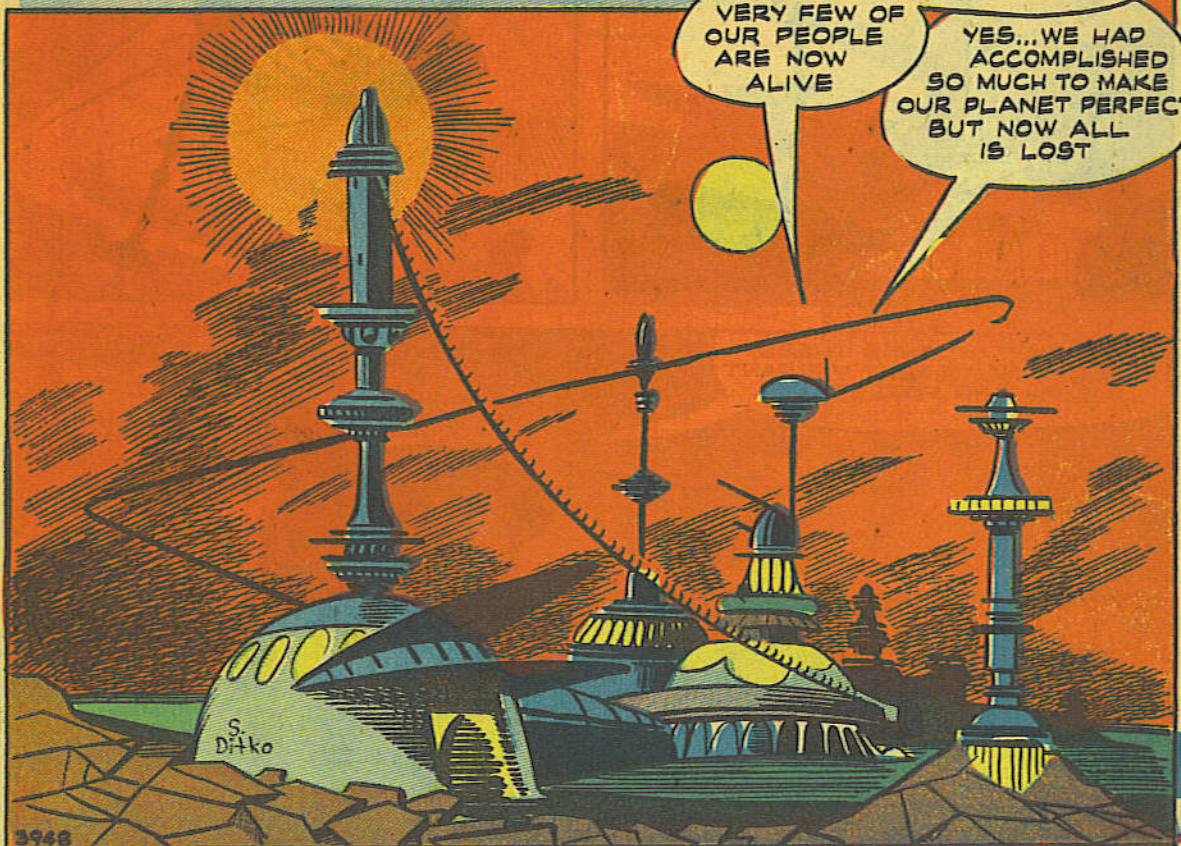
END

THE GREAT MARTIAN DROUGHT

THE GREAT DROUGHT ON MARS WAS SWIFTLY BRINGING TO A CLOSE A WONDERFUL CIVILIZATION THAT HAD ACHIEVED A UTOPIAN WAY OF LIFE!

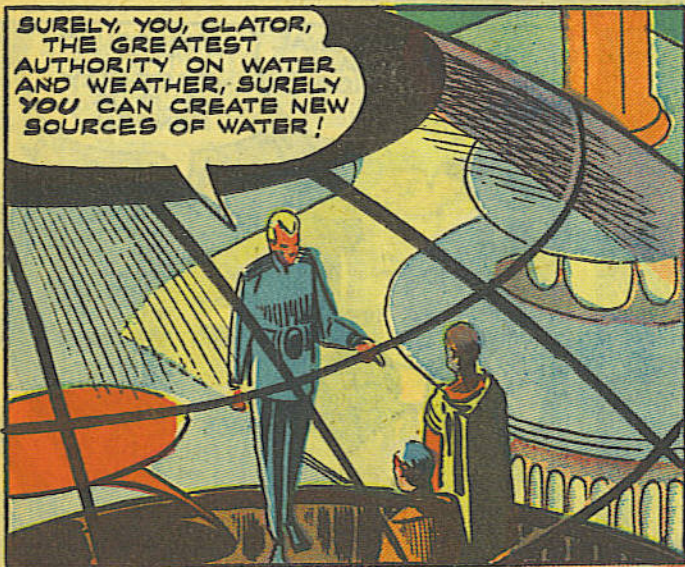
MY PEOPLE, THERE ISN'T MUCH WATER LEFT FOR OUR PARCHED PLANET AND VERY FEW OF OUR PEOPLE ARE NOW ALIVE

YES...WE HAD ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH TO MAKE OUR PLANET PERFECT BUT NOW ALL IS LOST



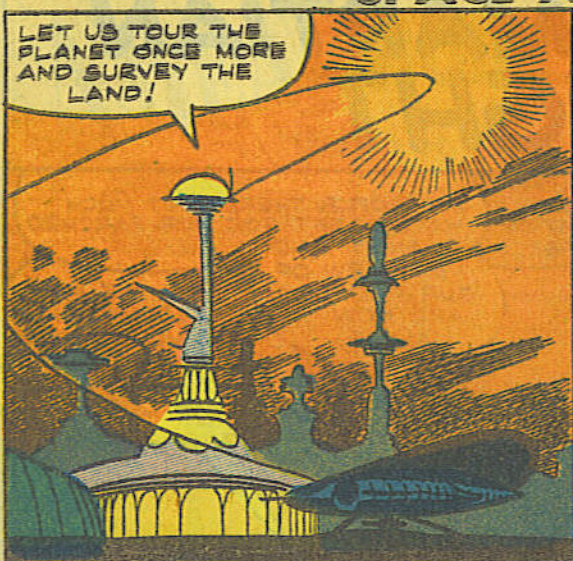
SURELY, YOU, CLATOR, THE GREATEST AUTHORITY ON WATER AND WEATHER, SURELY YOU CAN CREATE NEW SOURCES OF WATER!

OUR LEADER, MY STAFF AND I HAVE EXAMINED EVERY POSSIBILITY BUT WE SIMPLY CANNOT DO IT! THE STORES OF OXYGEN AND HYDROGEN ARE VANISHING RAPIDLY! SOON IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO BREATHE!

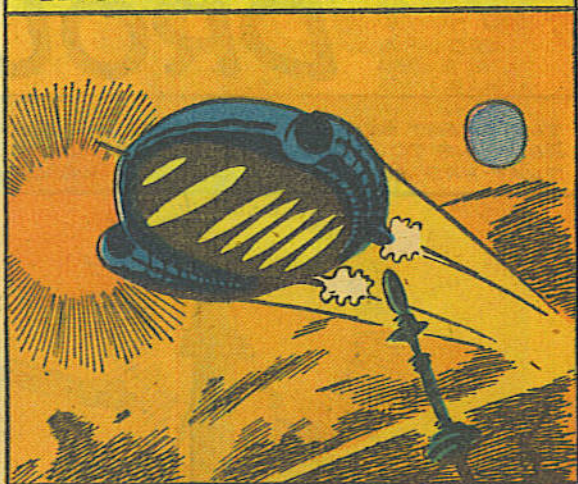


SPACE ADVENTURES

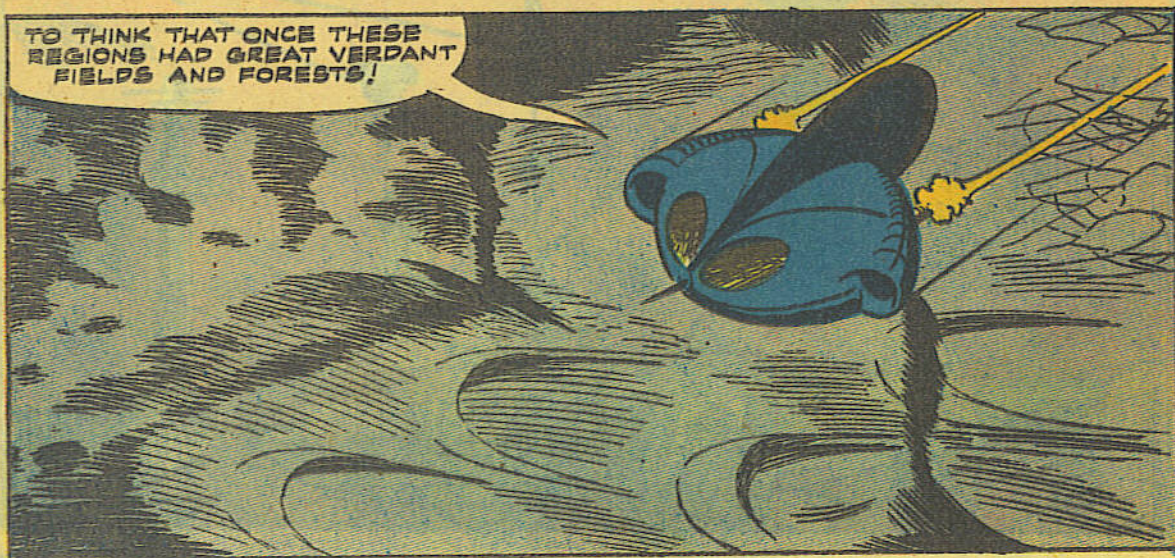
LET US TOUR THE
PLANET ONCE MORE
AND SURVEY THE
LAND!



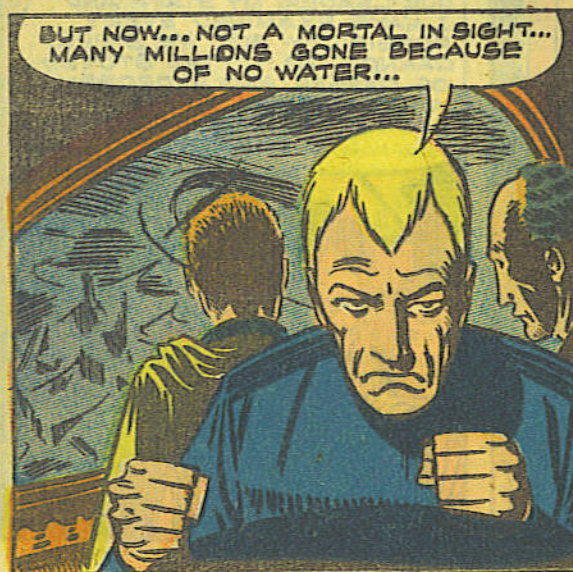
SO THE LEADER AND SCIENCE STAFF
JOURNEY FORTH ONCE MORE TO SADLY
BEHOLD THE DYING PLANET...



TO THINK THAT ONCE THESE
REGIONS HAD GREAT VERDANT
FIELDS AND FORESTS!

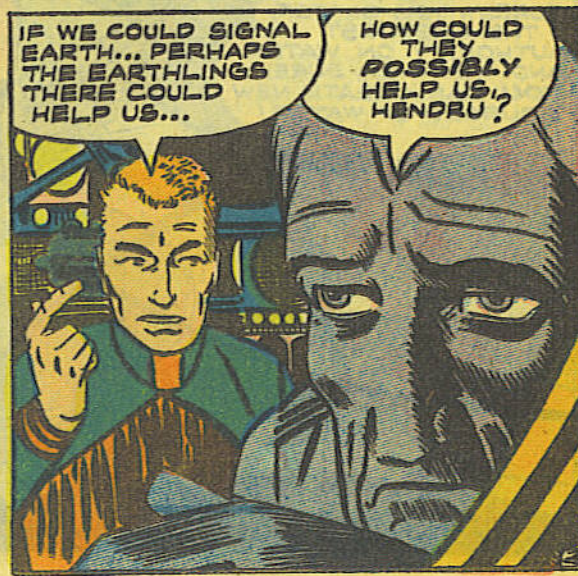


BUT NOW...NOT A MORTAL IN SIGHT...
MANY MILLIONS GONE BECAUSE
OF NO WATER...



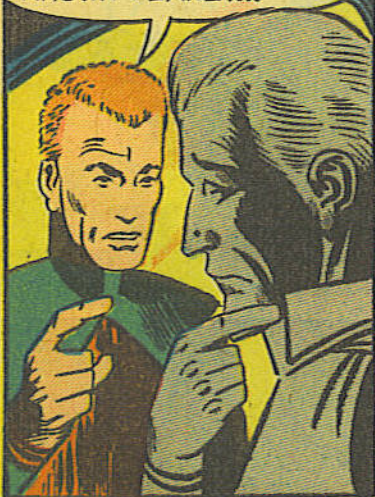
IF WE COULD SIGNAL
EARTH... PERHAPS
THE EARTHLINGS
THERE COULD
HELP US...

HOW COULD
THEY
POSSIBLY
HELP US,
HENDRU?

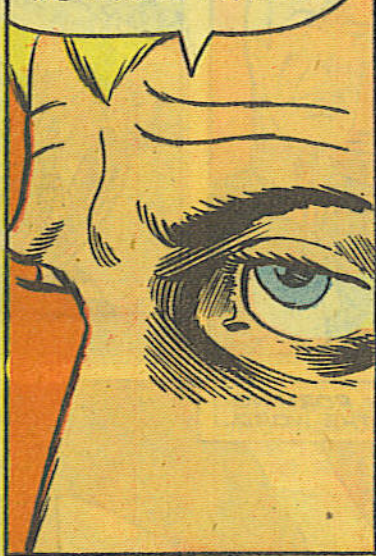


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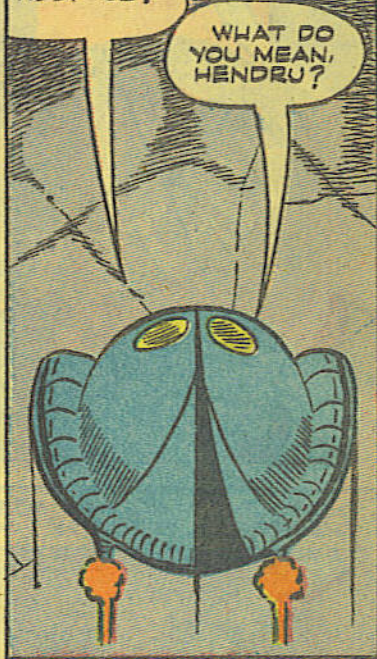
OUR LEADER, AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF DEVELOPING SPACE RADIO FOR COMMUNICATION! MY PRIMITIVE WIRELESS HAS PICKED UP A LANGUAGE FROM EARTH KNOWN AS ENGLISH, WHICH I HAVE LEARNED! EARTH POSSESSES MORE WATER THAN ANY OTHER KNOWN PLANET...



BUT HOW CAN THEY LEARN OF OUR DIFFICULTY? OUR ATTEMPTS AT SPACE TRAVEL HAVE FAILED SO FAR... UNLESS XUNRA ACHIEVES IT... XUNRA IS OUR ONLY HOPE FOR US TO ESCAPE FROM THIS MISERABLE PLANET!



I HAVE IT! SURELY THEY WILL UNDERSTAND AND COME TO HELP US!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HENDRU?

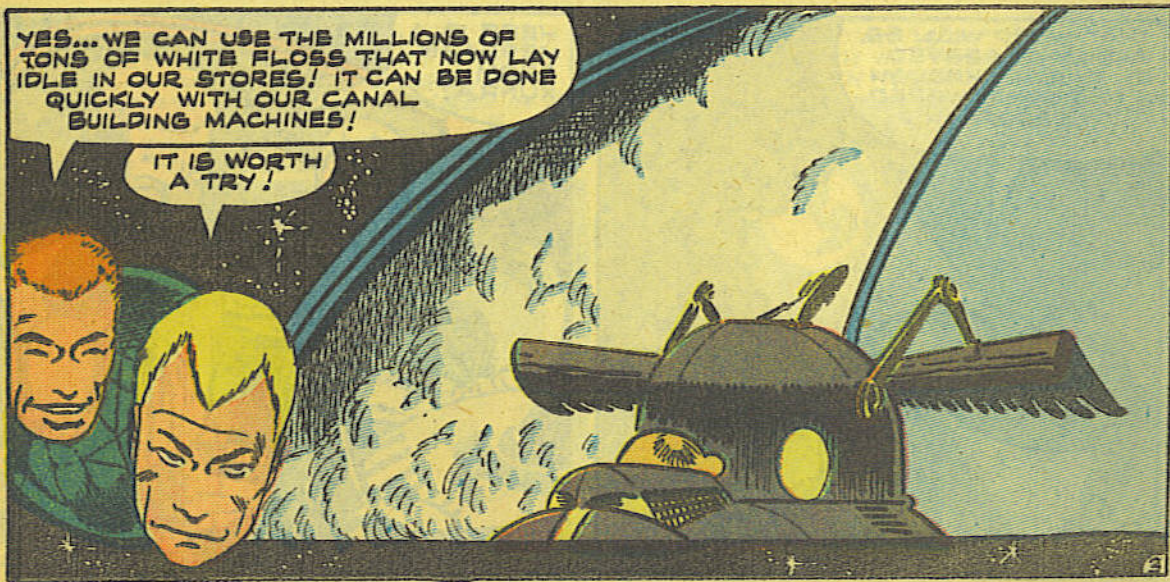
WE SHALL PRINT A LARGE ENGLISH WORD THEY CAN UNDERSTAND ON OUR DESERT SURFACES... SO LARGE THEIR TELESCOPES WILL UNDERSTAND!



YOU MEAN... WATER?

YES... WE CAN USE THE MILLIONS OF TONS OF WHITE FLOSS THAT NOW LAY IDLE IN OUR STORES! IT CAN BE DONE QUICKLY WITH OUR CANAL BUILDING MACHINES!

IT IS WORTH A TRY!



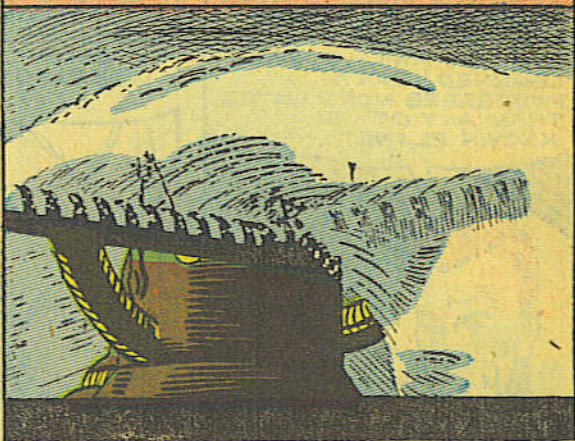
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IT WILL APPEAR
LIKE THIS...

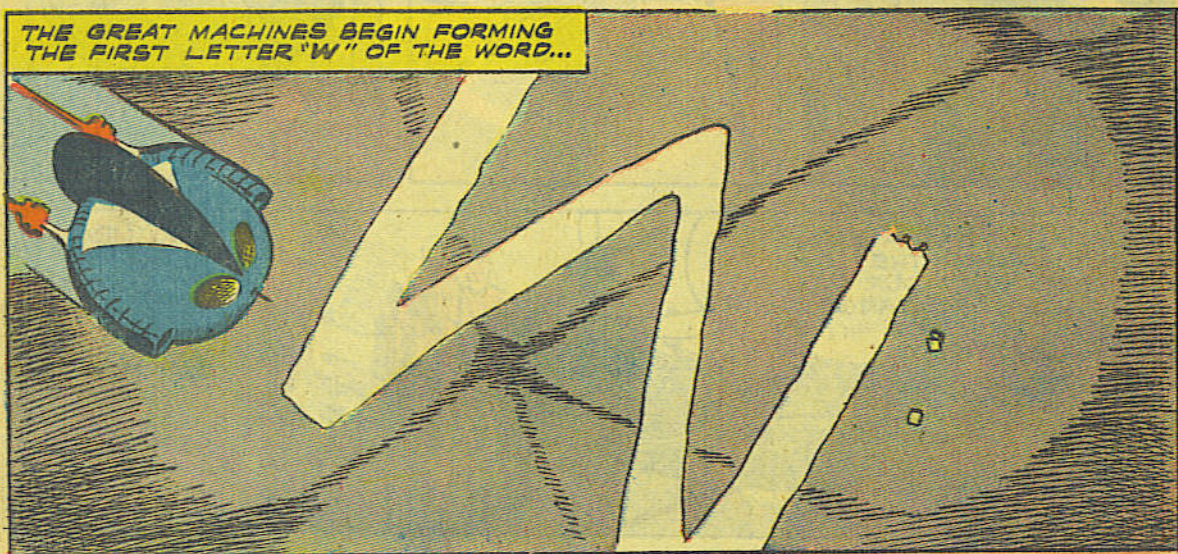
WE ARE DESPERATE...
LET'S TRY THAT!



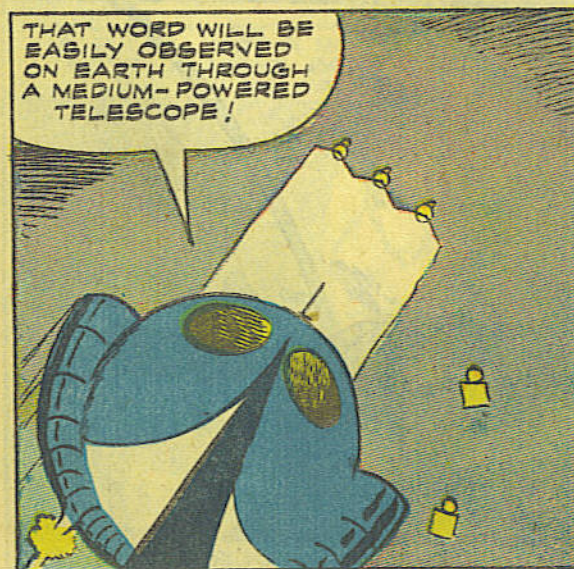
THE FLOSS, FORMERLY USED AS
INSULATION IN THE COLD POLAR
DESERTS, WAS NOW USED TO SPELL
OUT THE DEAREST WORD TO THE
SURVIVING MARTIANS... WATER!



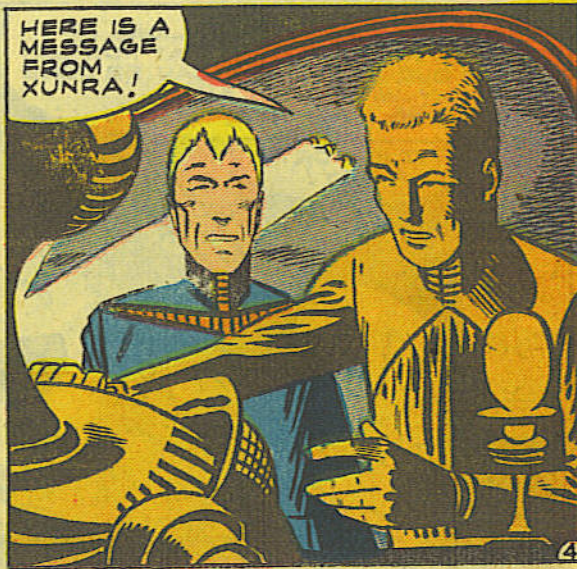
THE GREAT MACHINES BEGIN FORMING
THE FIRST LETTER 'W' OF THE WORD...



THAT WORD WILL BE
EASILY OBSERVED
ON EARTH THROUGH
A MEDIUM-POWERED
TELESCOPE!

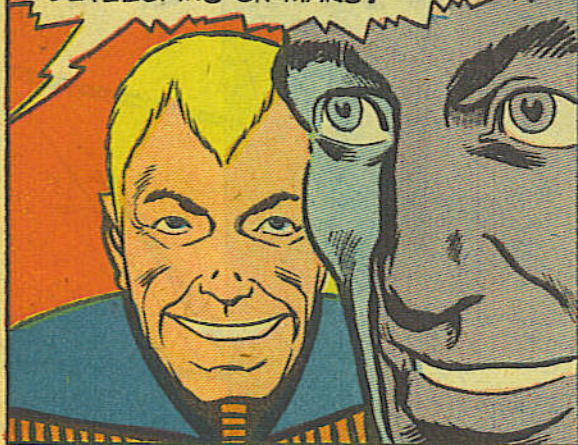


HERE IS A
MESSAGE
FROM
XUNRA!

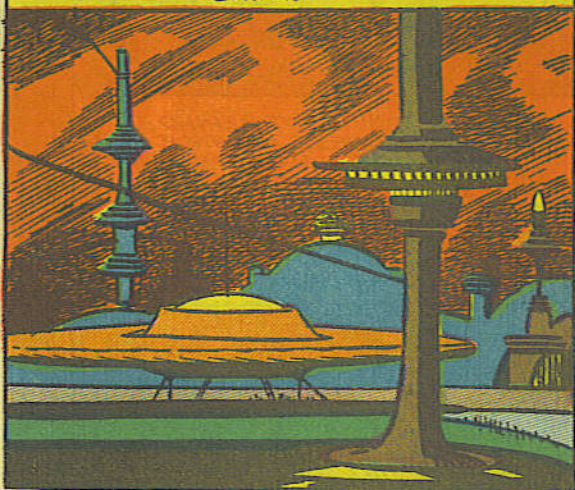


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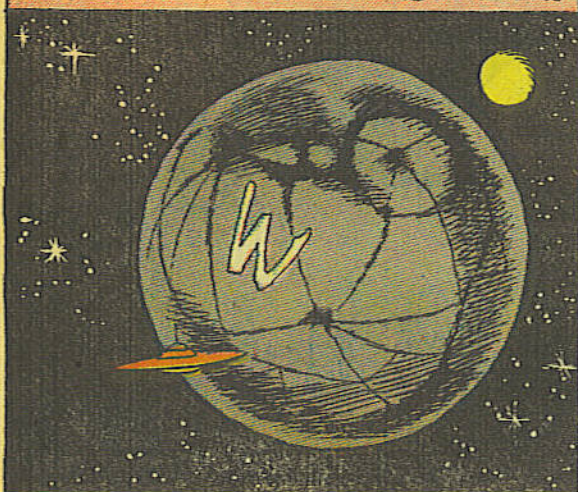
XUNRA HAS TESTED AND PERFECTED THE SPACESHIP! HE SAYS WE MUST LEAVE FOR EARTH AT ONCE BECAUSE OF HUGE SAND STORMS THAT ARE DEVELOPING ON MARS!



ALL MARTIAN SURVIVORS, A MERE HUNDRED, FILED INTO THE GREAT SPACE SHIP...



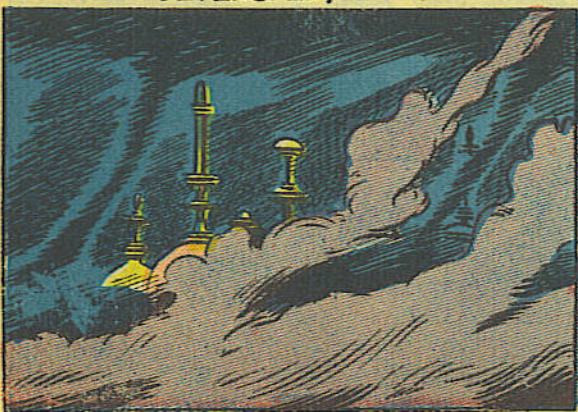
THE LAST MARTIANS HAD MADE THEIR ONLY CHOICE... TO LEAVE MARS FOREVER!



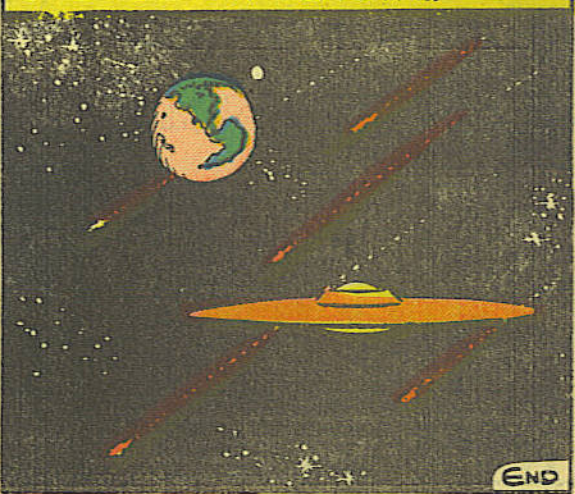
XUNRA HAS PREPARED US WITH FOOD AND LIQUIDS TO LAST US TEN YEARS THE TIME IT WILL TAKE OUR SHIP TO REACH EARTH!



IT IS TRUE THAT IN 1954, EARTH ASTRONOMERS SAW A WHITE "W" SHAPE ON MARS BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND IT... IT DISAPPEARED IN A FEW DAYS, BLOWN AWAY BY THE GREAT DRY GALES WHICH HAD DEVELOPED!



BUT THE MARTIAN "ARK" IS DUE TO LAND ON EARTH IN 1964... IF ALL GOES WELL WITH THEIR SHIP...



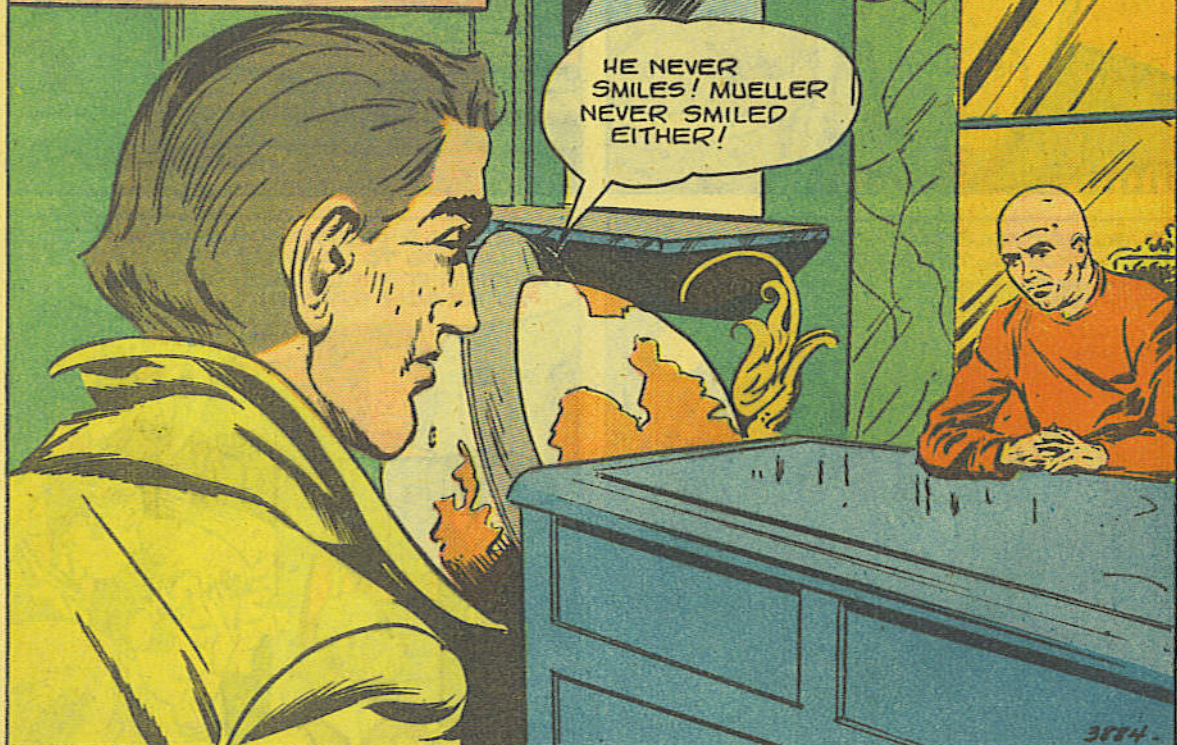
END

THE

AGENT AMONG US

THE LEADER SAT BEHIND HIS MASSIVE DESK, HIS FACE AS DEVOID OF HUMAN FEELING, AS COLDLY MALEVOLENT AS MUELLER. THE SCIENTISTS HAD ONCE BEEN... DESPITE HIMSELF, THE SECURITY CHIEF SHUDDERED!

HE NEVER SMILES! MUELLER NEVER SMILED EITHER!



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NOW THE LEADER SPOKE, IN THE COLD GRAVELLY VOICE THAT WAS SO CHARACTERISTIC OF HIM!

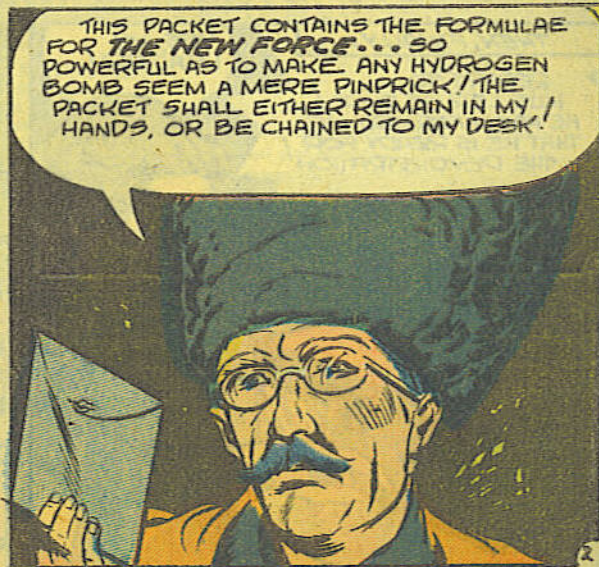
YOU WILL RETURN IN PRECISELY ONE HOUR! AT THAT TIME YOU WILL EITHER REPORT SUCCESS IN APPREHENDING THE ENEMY AGENT WHO MADE CONTACT WITH MUELLER! OR YOU WILL REPORT FAILURE...!



FAILURE WILL MEAN THE ENEMY AGENT REMAINS UNDETECTED AMONG US! AND SO I WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANSLATE **THESE PLANS** INTO ACTION, AND LAUNCH AN IMMEDIATE **ALL OUT ATTACK!**

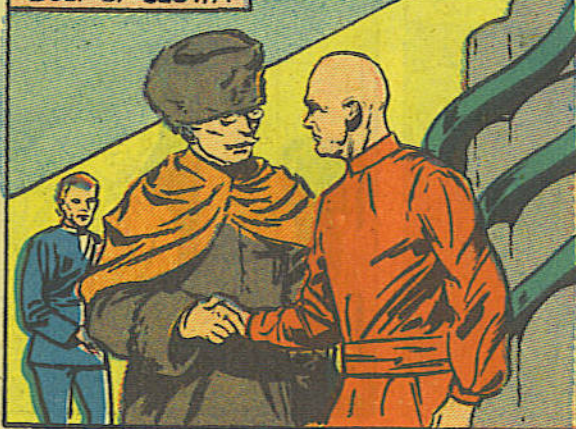


SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

THE TWO MEN HAD GREETED EACH OTHER COLDLY... SPOKE OF THE NEW FORCE THAT HAD SUCH A TERRIBLE POTENTIAL, WITH THE SAME DETACHMENT OF TWO MERCHANTS WHO DISCUSS A BOLT OF CLOTH!



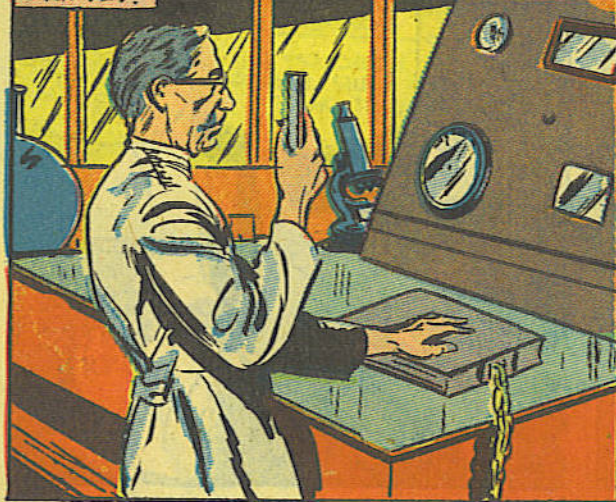
AND THEN...

YOU WILL PERSONALLY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SECURITY GUARD OVER MUELLER WHILE HE PREPARES FOR THE DEMONSTRATION!

YES, MY LEADER!



AFTER THEN, THE DAYS HAD PASSED SWIFTLY!



THE GUARD DETAIL GOES SMOOTHLY?

YES, CHIEF!

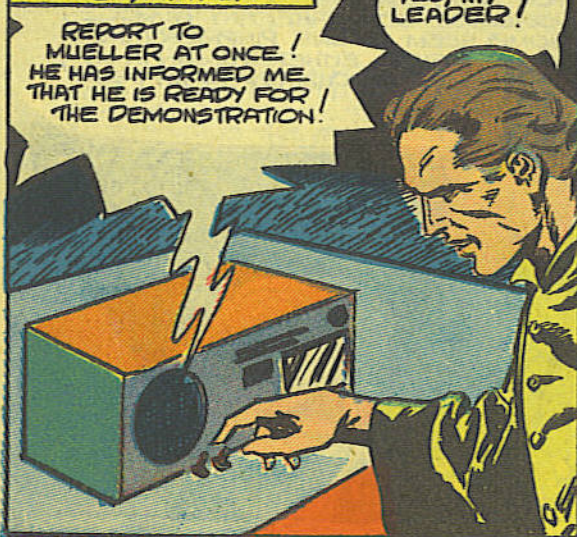
THAT ONE IS MUCH LIKE OUR LEADER, IS HE NOT? HE NEVER SMILES, TRUSTS NO ONE! HAVE YOU SEEN HOW HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PRECIOUS NOTES CHAINED TO HIS DESK!



THEN, FINALLY...

REPORT TO MUELLER AT ONCE! HE HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE IS READY FOR THE DEMONSTRATION!

YES, MY LEADER!

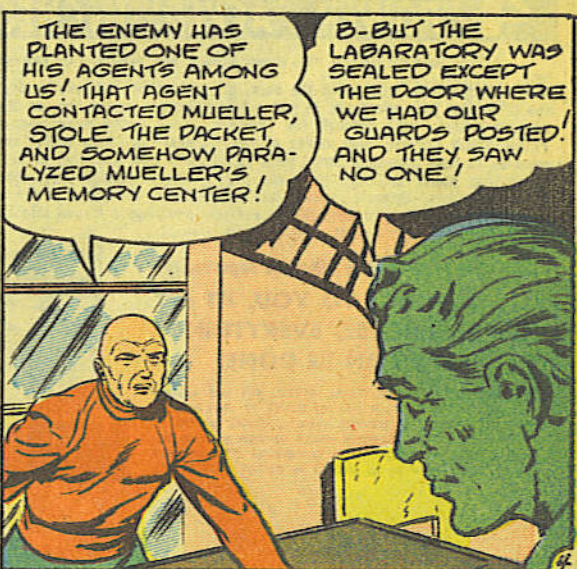
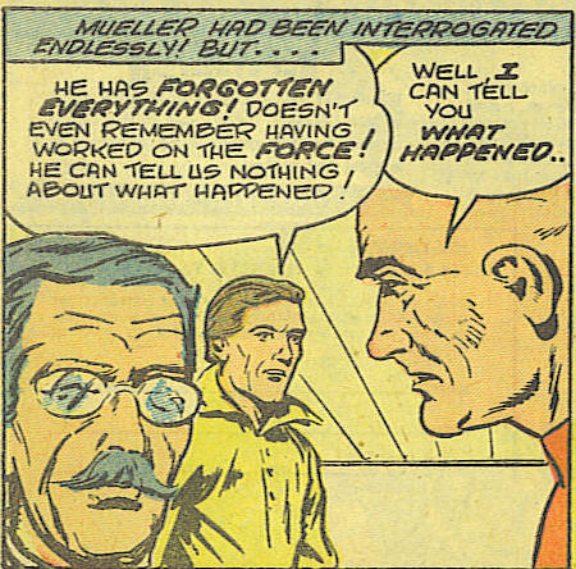
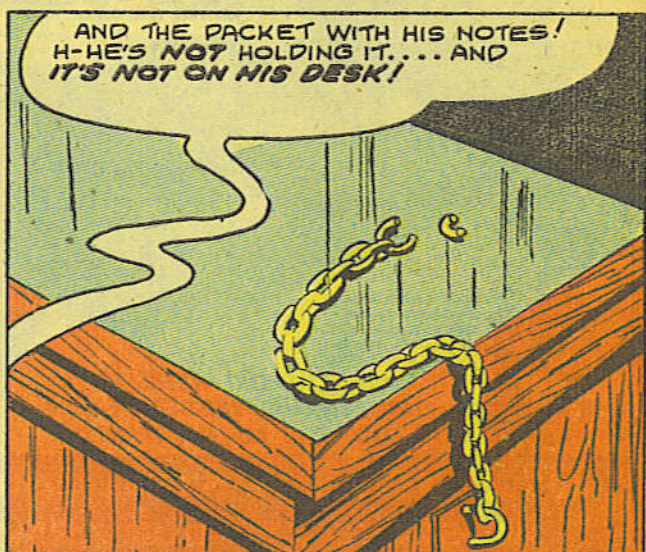


MUELLER IS INSIDE?

YES, CHIEF! HE IS WAITING FOR YOU TO BRING HIM TO THE LEADER!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

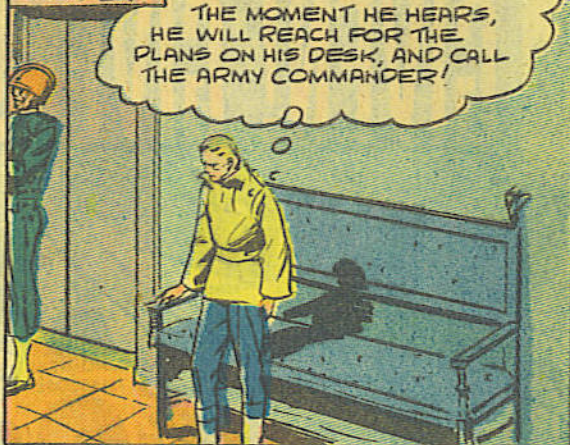
THOSE WERE THE FACTS... BUT THE LEADER KEPT INSISTING!

THERE IS AN AGENT AMONG US! WE MUST FIND HIM! THERE IS AN AGENT AMONG US!



.... AND NOW, AFTER ALL THE FUTILE DAYS OF TRYING THIS LAST HOUR, HAD PASSED TOO, AND THE TIME HAD COME FOR HIM TO REPORT FAILURE TO THE LEADER!

THE MOMENT HE HEARS, HE WILL REACH FOR THE PLANS ON HIS DESK, AND CALL THE ARMY COMMANDER!



LEADER...?



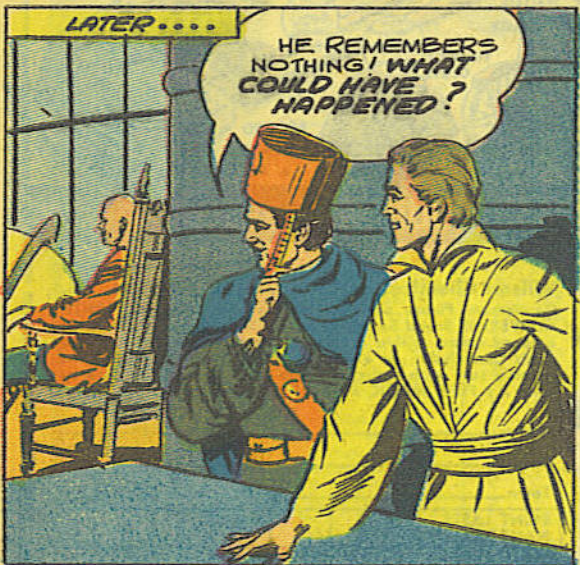
CAN I HELP YOU, MY GOOD MAN?

THAT SMILE... THE SWEETNESS OF HIS VOICE... AND THE PLANS ARE GONE FROM HIS DESK!



LATER....

HE REMEMBERS NOTHING! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?



I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! ALL I KNOW IS THAT WAR HAS BEEN AVERTED, AND TWO TERRIBLY DANGEROUS MEN HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED BY SOMEONE OR SOMETHING... BY SOME AGENT AMONG US!

